

REMARKS

In anticipation of the requested telephonic interview of September 29, 2008 to be attended by Applicant's attorney, the Examiner, Sean Megley, the inventor, and David Christianson, the representative of the assignee, Applicant requests consideration of the foregoing amendments and the accompanying remarks.

*Jacobson*¹ pertains to compliance with rules governing the usage of an email system. The present invention pertains to compliance with rules promulgated by administrative agencies. Thus, there are fundamental differences between the subject matter of the disclosure and the subject matter of the cited art. These differences are manifest in claim 1.

Turning now to claim 1, the Office appears to regard claim 1's "enterprise element" as corresponding to a user of *Jacobson*'s email system. The Office also appears to regard claim 1's "enterprise knowledge-base" as *Jacobson*'s user profile **150**. Claim 1's "rules knowledge base" is apparently regarded as corresponding to the reference's database **504** that includes a network policy. Claim 1's "applicable rules" would therefore be the individual rules of this network policy.

Applicant observes that in *Jacobson*, all network users are subject to the same rules. *Jacobson* does not teach or suggest that one set of rules applies to some email users and a second set of rules applies to other email users. Nor is there any suggestion that this is the case.

Claim 1 as filed recites "defining rule associations", in the plural. It does not recite "defining a rule association." Implicit in this recitation is that there is more than one rule association to be defined. This is different from *Jacobson*, in which *one and only one* rule association is defined: namely the association between all email users and the single policy.

In an effort to clarify this point, Applicant proposes amending claim 1 to explicitly recite first and second rule associations between first and second subsets of enterprise elements, with

¹ *Jacobson*, US Patent No. 6,735,701.

differing first and second subsets of the rules being associated with the different subsets of enterprise elements.

The fact that different rules apply to different enterprise elements makes sense in the context of the present invention, where examples of enterprise elements include different departments of an organization, with different functions and duties associated with different departments. This results in a considerably more complex compliance management problem because different enterprise elements are subject to different rules, and many rules that are relevant to one enterprise element are completely irrelevant to other enterprise elements.

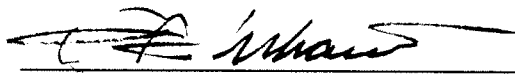
In *Jacobson*, all email users are subject to the same policy. Hence, the technical problem addressed in the present invention does not arise.

In view of the large number of participants, Applicant requests that the Examiner telephone Applicant's teleconference number, which is 877-468-2134 and use the pass code 701553 to participate in the telephone interview of September 29, 2008 at 2:00 PM Eastern time. Should the proposed date and time be inconvenient, Applicant requests that the Examiner provide an alternative date and time.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this response. However, to the extent fees are due, or if a refund is forthcoming, please adjust our deposit account 06-1050 referencing attorney docket 16190-0002001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 15, 2008



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